

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1508

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 8907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: REMARKS ON PETROLEUM IN PRESIDENT CALDERA'S

PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 205239

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF
PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REMARKS AT HIS OCTOBER 11 PRESS
CONFERENCE, CONCERNING WAR IN MIDDLE EAST AND PETROLEUM
SUPPLY:

"QUESTION: WHAT IS VENEZUELA'S POSITION WITH REGARD
TO ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AND WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK THAT
CONFLICT COULD HAVE ON WORLD ENERGY CRISIS?"

PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REPLY: "VENEZUELA PROFOUNDLY
LAMENTS EVENTS NOW TAKING PLACE IN MIDDLE EAST REGION.
WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES
INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE FERVENTLY
DESIROUS OF PEACE, AND ARE DISPOSED, TO THE EXTENT
POSSIBLE WITHIN RADIUS OF ACTION THAT CAN CONCERN US AS
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A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING

LASTING PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. "WE DESIRE ESPECIALLY THAT IN OUR OWN TERRITORY
THERE BE MAINTAINED ATMOSPHERE OF COMPREHENSION THAT
HAS EXISTED BETWEEN DESCENDANTS OF ARABS AND JEWS WHO
LIVE IN OUR TERRITORY, WHO ARE MUCH VALUED AND WHO MAKE
A VALIANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD EFFORTS OF PROGRESS AND
DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY.

3. "WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY THAT ENTIRE WORLD
COMMUNITY INTEREST ITSELF IN FINDING MEANS TO RESOLVE
THESE PROBLEMS IN MOST SATISFACTORY WAY, AND WE DO NOT
THINK THAT (...THESE PROBLEMS...) SHOULD HAVE GRAVE
REPERCUSSIONS IN ALREADY DELICATE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY OF
OIL TO IMPORTANT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND TO COUNTRIES
THAT ARE UNDERTAKING TASKS OF DEVELOPMENT.

4."FOR OUR PART, VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM POLICY WILL NOT
EXPERIENCE ANY ALTERATION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS EVENT
THAT WE SINCERELY LAMENT, AND WHICH, AS I SAID BEFORE,
WE SISH TO BE SOLVED IN MOST RAPID AND MOST CONVENIENT
WAY FOR ALL THE AFFECTED PEOPLES AND FOR ALL OF
HUMANITY."

5. COMMENTS: PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REMARKS STRIKE EMBASSY
AS MILD, RATHER GENERAL STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL
SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. CLEARLY HIS EFFORT
IS TO KEEP CONFLICT FROM HAVING REPERCUSSIONS IN VENE-
ZUELA, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT LOCAL
JEWISH AND ARAB COMMUNITIES. HIS COMMENT ON VENE-
ZUELAN OIL POLICY WAS VERY BRIEF AND LESS SPECIFIC
THAN REMARKS ALREADY MADE BY HIS MINISTER OF MINES AND
HYDROCARBONS (SEE CARACAS 8722). MINISTER PEREZ
COMMENTED AGAIN YESTERDAY ON OIL SUPPLY QUESTION.
EMBASSY REPORTING HIS REMARKS SEP TEL.

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